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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Kalinin Oblast)

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT 1. Soviet Army Reservists' Training Course  
2. City of Kalinin

DATE DISTR.

23 July 1954

NO. OF PAGES

5

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO.

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PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

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At the rayvovenkomat the persons called were informed that they were being called up for a military refresher course which was to last one month. The inductees were given three days to straighten out their personal affairs

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before reporting for duty. A letter was given to the inductee for his employer, announcing that he has been requested to report for military duty. It was signed by an officer. [REDACTED]

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2. Out of the 100 to 200 men who worked [REDACTED] on construction work in Leningrad, two or three were called up each year for a one-month reserve training course. The men who were called up were members of the classes which had participated in World War II but had been demobilized for sometime. The retraining program is called either a voyennyy sbor (military assembly) or a voyennaya perepodgotovka (military re-training). Such programs take place at all times of the year. Only infantry soldiers of the rank of sergeant or higher participate in this training program. The men were from the classes of 1918 through 1924 inclusive. They came from various places, including Moscow and Leningrad. All trainees took the same course of instruction, which was called mladshyy nachalstvuyushchyy sostav (NCO command course).

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On arrival, [REDACTED] they were met at the station by a senior lieutenant and an army truck and then were taken to the Voyennyy Gorodok (military post) situated on the north side of the Volga River, not far from Kalinin, on the Leningradskoye Shosse. There was a streetcar line from the railroad station to the camp. This barrack complex consisted of about 15 large single-story brick buildings surrounded by a solid board fence two meters high. All buildings were plastered and whitewashed. The road frontage was approximately 600 meters in length.

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These men were between 25 and 30 years of age and for this short training period served as privates, being paid 30 rubles for the month.

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5. The commander of the battalion was a major, with a captain as the second in command. The battalion staff consisted of a political instruction officer, supply officer, and some administrative personnel, in addition to the commanding officer. These were all regular (kadrovyy) army officers. The company commander as well as [REDACTED] a lieutenant, were reservists called up for the period of the training.

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There were approximately 1000 men in this battalion. The battalion had four companies, commanded by captains; every company consisted of four platoons commanded by lieutenants; and every platoon consisted of four squads having senior sergeants as squad leaders.

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Some of these men also attended evening classes arranged by their local rayvoenkomat. Infantry soldiers were called up less frequently. There were refresher courses for privates as well as for NCOs.

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17. The first day at the barracks commenced at 0800 hours with a bath, followed by the issue of clothing and equipment. Civilian clothing was taken away, sent to the kaptarka (QM stores), and stored until the end of the course. A record of the items taken from the trainees was placed with each clothing package but no receipts were given. The starshina (first sergeant) and a

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clerk then took all particulars

After lunch on the first day, the reservists were divided into sections, platoons, and companies. There was no medical check up at the beginning or end of the month's refresher course.

8. All members of the course were issued carbines with undetachable bayonets. There was a triangular marking near the bolt with the weapon number, type number, and name of the manufacturer (Tula Weapons Factory). The only technical improvement in weapons that was noted during the course was the machine pistol (PPSh), which was now known as the PPS and had a metal grip instead of the wooden one, making the whole weapon lighter to hold. The PPS was only seen at lectures and on the ranges. Demonstrations and instructions were also given on the Degtyarev and Maxim machine pistols and RDG hand grenades.
9. The training was not particularly hard. As a refresher course, it may be useful from the viewpoint of the Soviet military authorities, but source personally learned nothing new in the way of tactics, equipment, or weapons. The daily program was as follows:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
0700	Reveille, wash, and physical training
0800	Breakfast
0900 - 1100	Political indoctrination
1100 - 1400	Study of army manuals ( <u>ustavy</u> )
1400 - 1500	Midday meal and rest
1500 - 1900	Drill
1900 - 2000	Fatigue and cleaning of equipment
2100 - 2200	Free time
2200	Evening check ( <u>proverka</u> ) and inspection of personal equipment
2215	Evening march with songs
2300	Lights out

10. All lectures, such as those given on political indoctrination (0900 - 1100) and army manuals (1100 - 1400), were always held in the same barrack room where the men slept, some sitting on their beds, others on stools. As each barrack room housed two platoons (vzvody), all lectures were given to two platoons at a time. The political indoctrination period was held daily, during which time the men were given lectures on the latest political developments; newspaper articles were read aloud to them; Stalin's biography was studied; and Malenkov's speech at the 19th Communist Party Congress and Stalin's latest effort on economic problems were studied. During the period of the army manuals study, the following three were thoroughly gone into, but were not issued to each soldier individually:

- a. Stroyevoy Ustav Pekhoty (Infantry Combat Manual)
- b. Ustav Karaulnoy Sluzhby (Regulations of the Guard Service)
- c. Nastavleniye po Strelkovomu Delu (Instructions in Musketry)

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11. All drill periods were held on the barrack square, and on three occasions during the course the men were marched to a poligon (firing range) nearby for firing practice and field work. This poligon was situated approximately two to three kilometers away from the barracks, two kilometers along the Leningradskoye Shosse, past the railroad car repair shops, then about one-half kilometer along a small turning to the right. On the first visit to the poligon all men had to fire a rifle, five rounds, from a prone position at a range of 100 meters. The second time was the same, but at a range of 300 meters. On the third and last visit the firing training was with the new PPS machine pistol at a distance of 50 meters; everyone fired three single shots each, followed by a burst of approximately five rounds. Use of ammunition was stringently controlled. Empty shells were collected after each firing.
12. Besides the firing practice the men were employed on general field work, exercises in attack and defence, and instructions in the throwing of hand grenades, using wooden dummies. The fields around the poligon were used for these exercises. The barrack complex was well organized and had the usual facilities, such as baths, mess halls, outhouses, and recreation rooms. Like most dwelling houses in the Soviet Union, the barracks were bug-ridden.
13. It being winter, trainees were issued ushanka (cap with earflaps) and valenki (felt boots), but no quilted wear. Instead, they had the summer jacket (gimnasterka), trousers, and a greatcoat. The uniform had red shoulder boards with raspberry colored piping but no other markings on them. Trainees signed a receipt for what they received.
14. In the Voyenny Gorodok this unit was fenced off from the other units in the same barracks complex, but [REDACTED] some personnel wearing black shoulder boards, possibly belonging to some construction (stroitelnyy) battalion. Infantry soldiers wearing kursantskiye pogony (officer candidate shoulder boards) were seen in town, thus indicating that an officers' training camp may be in or near the town.
15. The municipal transport system in Kalinin consists of streetcars and buses. The streetcars are all of very old design without automatic doors, but the buses are fairly modern and probably built by ZIS.
16. A railroad car repair plant (vagonno-remontnyy zavod) is situated on Leningradskoye Shosse, beyond the Voyenny Gorodok, in the direction of Leningrad. A streetcar line starts at this plant, passes the barracks complex, and, after crossing the bridge over the Volga River, proceeds to the railroad station, where it terminates.
17. There is a single-span steel bridge, about four meters wide, for road traffic across the Volga River. It also carries a single-track streetcar line. On both sides of the bridge the streetcar system is double-tracked, but because of the narrowness of the bridge only a single track is possible over it.
18. The railroad station cannot be approached by automobile as there is no road to it. The station building is plaster-covered and is built of brick or wood. It lies between two platforms and is connected to the main streets by two steel foot bridges. Besides the passenger station with its two tracks, the railroad yards at Kalinin cover quite a large area. There are another 20 to 25 tracks, probably used for freight traffic, on the northeast side of the two passenger tracks. These fan out as one reaches Kalinin and fan in as one leaves the town.
19. A movie theater named Zvezdochka is located on the river embankment near the road bridge over the Volga River. The movie theater seats approximately 500 persons.
20. From the barracks complex, large buildings situated on the other side of the Volga could be seen. It was said that this was the Pryadilno-Tkatskiy Kombinat "Proletarka" (Proletarian Spinning and Weaving Combine). [REDACTED]

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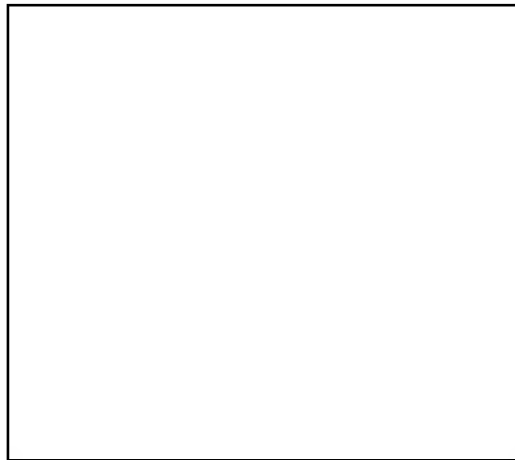
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